



Poultry Management

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Considerations



- Flock Size
- Production goal
- Facility Needs
- Nutrition
- Health
- Avian Flu
- Bio Security

Flock Size/Production Goals



- Egg production?
 - How many eggs can realistically be consumed or “given” away each week.
 - 1 hen = 250 eggs/yr
 - Older hens produce less
 - 3 layers/household member
- Hens can raise 10-14 chicks
 - Will you keep them all, harvest?

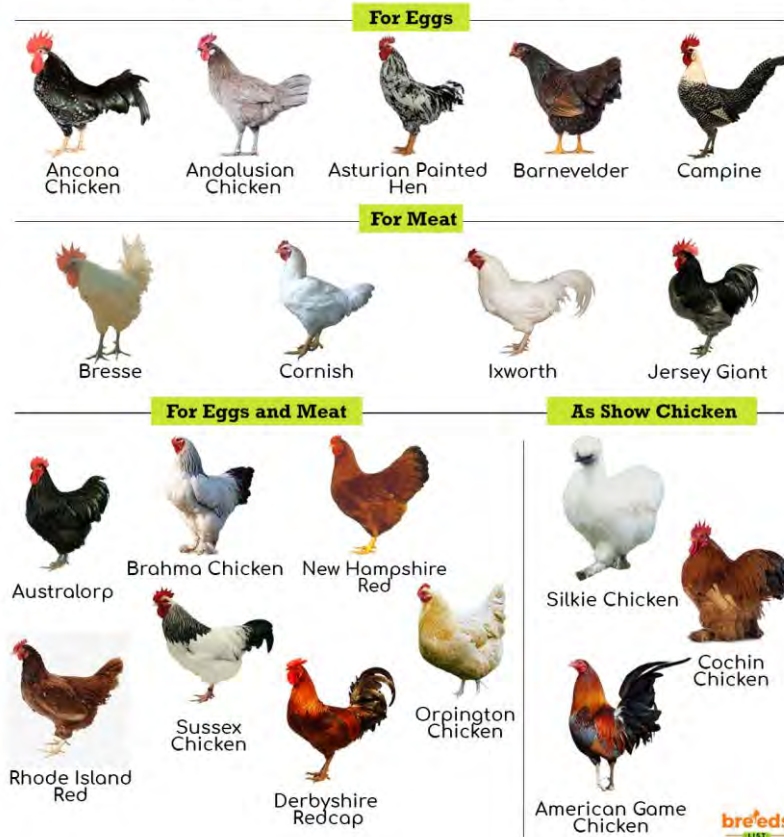
Getting Started



- Pullets:
 - 6 to 20 weeks of age
 - Pullets should start laying at 20-24 weeks
 - Use caution here....
- Chicks
 - Sexed?
 - Healthy
 - Anticipate some death loss

Selecting a breed

TYPES OF CHICKEN BREEDS



- Over 50 breeds to choose from
 - Meat
 - Rapid growth
 - Less broody
 - Ie White Plymouth Rock, Cornish cross
 - Egg production
 - Moderate sized
 - Can be broody
 - Ie Cochins. Buff Orpingtons. Light Brahas.
 - Both
 - Decent growth rate with good egg production and will brood.
 - Barred rock, Rhode Island Red, Sussex

Facilities that fit



- Mature birds require 2.5 to 3 sq ft each.
- A place to roost at night.
 - 6 – 8” space per bird
- Protection from predators, including from the sky...
- Feed and waterers should be easily accessed to clean and fill.

Facilities that fit – Raising young birds



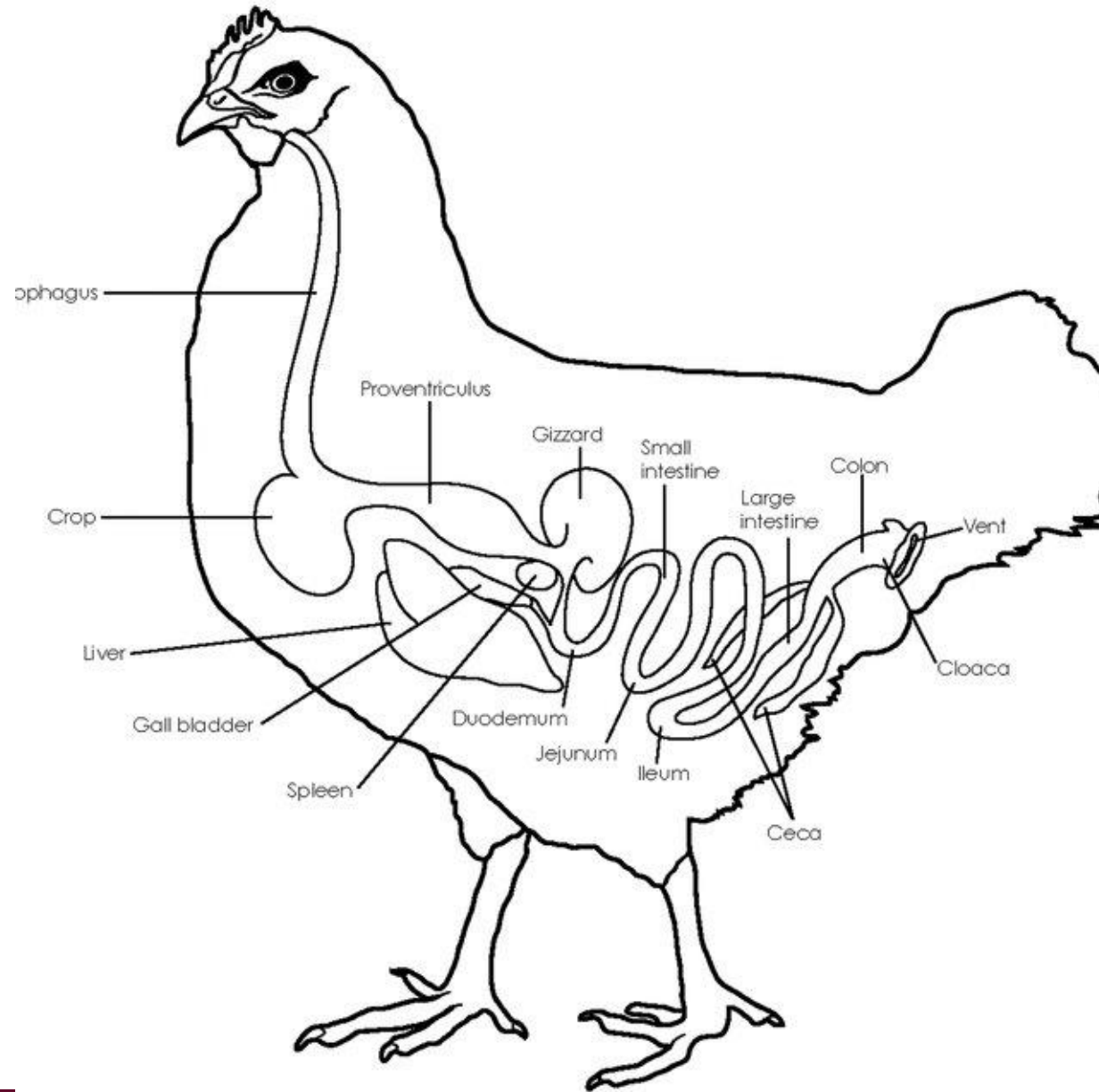
- Brooders do not require a lot of space
- Constant heat source.
 - Lamps
 - Heat plates
- Good ventilation
- From hatch to 6 weeks, or until they have mature feathers.
- Keep separate from mature birds until at least 8-12 weeks.

Facilities that fit – Raising young birds



- Plenty of feeder and water space.
- Expect wasted feed.
- Clean pen regularly
- Remove any sick birds immediately

Nutrition



Nutrition



- The easiest and hardest livestock to feed....
- Omnivorous (eat meat and vegetables)
- Are susceptible to nutrition deficiencies.
- Require grit for digestion

Nutrition



- Water for metabolism and body temp regulation.
 - Too cold or warm throws off consumption
- Grit to aid in digestion
- A LOT of calcium for layers
 - 3+ g Ca = 2.5 to 3% of the diet
 - A mature cow requires 17g
 - Oyster shell is best
 - Limestone works fine

Nutrition – Deficiencies



- Ca:P imbalance
 - Normal 12:1 (3.5g Ca: 0.29g P)
 - Imbalance results in spider leg syndrome in chicks, poor egg quality/production, and reduced growth

Nutrition – Deficiencies



- Protein/Amino Acid deficiency
 - Raw grains are low in lysine and methionine.
 - Feathers contain approx. 85% protein.
 - Feathers loss, or slow regrowth after a molt may be a sign of deficiency.

Nutrition – Deficiencies



- Vitamin D3 deficiency
 - Naturally low in the base diet.
 - Needed for proper Ca metabolism and use
 - Deficiency results in poor bone development in chicks, osteoporosis in mature birds, and poor egg production
- Other vitamins of concern:
 - A, E, K – fat soluble
 - B1 and B2 – water soluble

Nutrition



- Because of Ca requirement, it can be difficult to balance a poultry ration with enough protein and energy.
- For optimum production, diets must be nutrient dense.

Nutrition



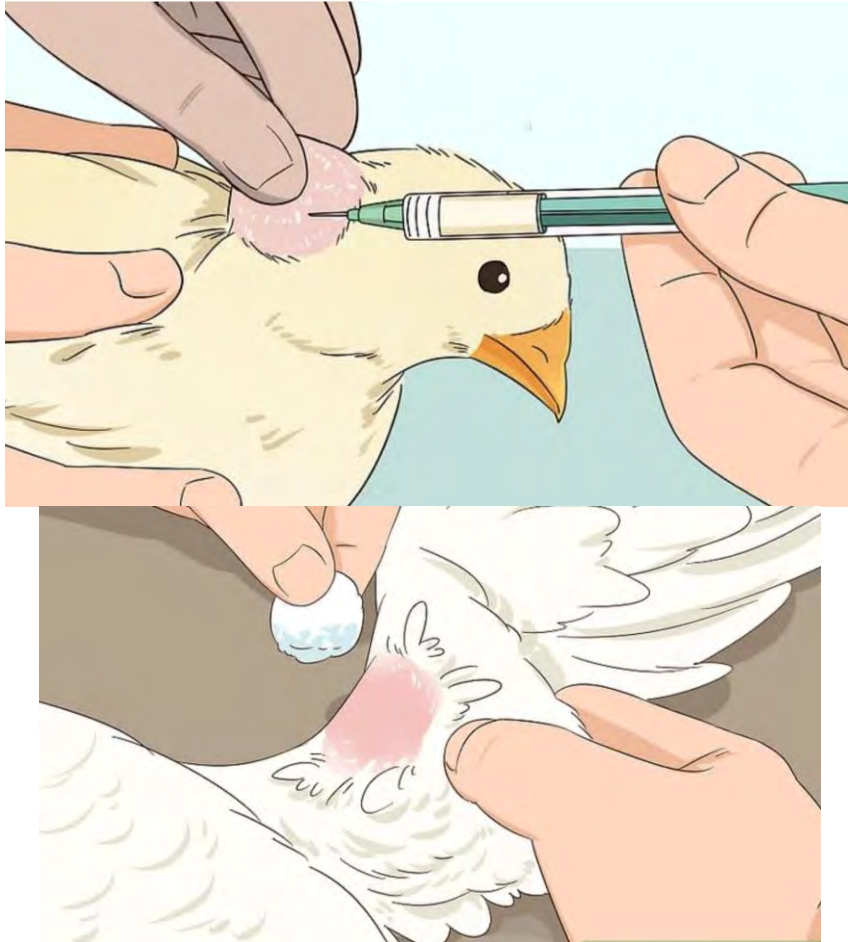
- “Starter” products for chicks
 - 18-20% protein
- Pullets (18 to 20 weeks)
 - 17-18% protein
- Mature birds
 - 16% protein
 - Scratch (Corn/Oats/Barley/Milo)

Health management



- Vaccine
 - Some chicks come already vaccinated for Mareks disease.
 - “fowl paralysis”
 - Newcastle disease
 - Respiratory/neural virus
 - Bronchitis
 - Respiratory
 - Fowl Pox
 - Skin and internal organ lesions

Health management



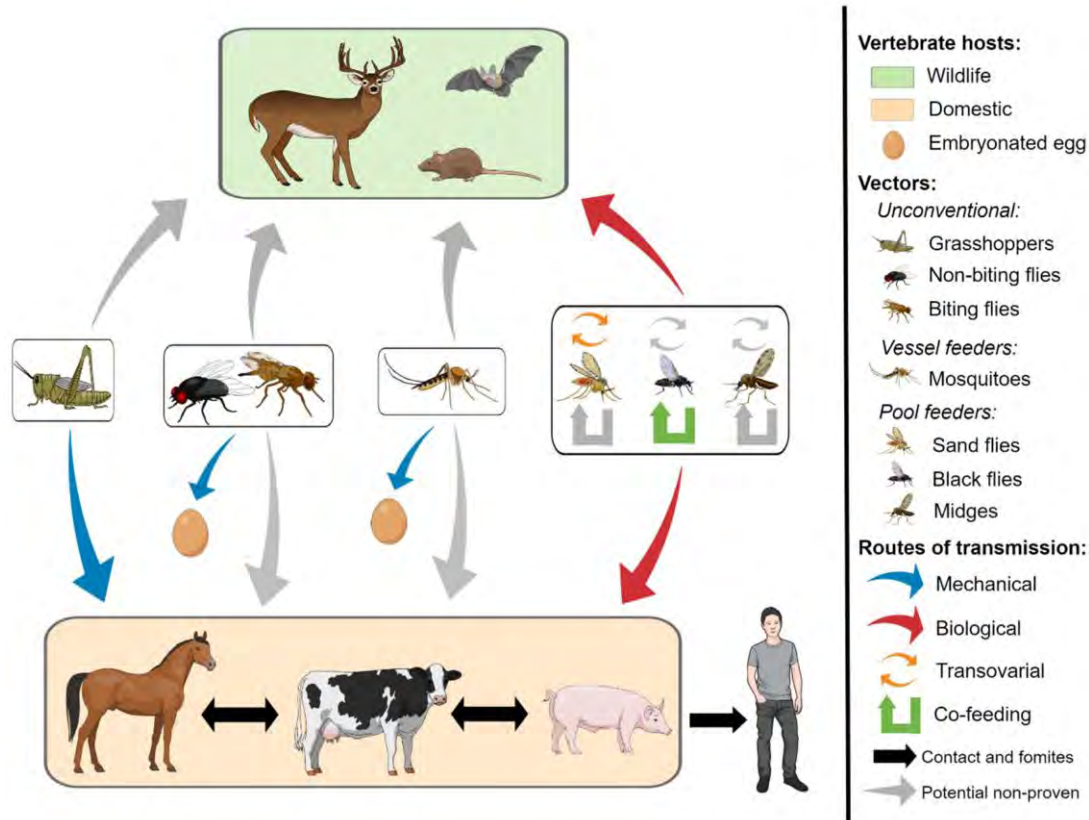
- Use the nape of the neck for chicks.
- Nape or wing for mature birds.
- Subcutaneous is best
- Follow label instructions
- Very light gauge/short needles (20 to 22 g)
- Most vaccines only require 0.2 mL per dose.

Health management – Parasite control



- Lice/mites most common external parasites
 - Permethrin sprays or dusts work best for control
- Internal parasites
 - Oral anthelmintics can be delivered per bird or in the water or medicated feed.

Fly/mosquito control



- Flies, ticks, and mosquitos are disease vectors.
- Keep waterers fresh
- Maintain fly control practices around the coup

Health issues



- Runny eyes/nostrils
- Depressed
- Lethargic
- Warm to touch
- Difficulty breathing

Health issues



- Isolate the sick bird(s) immediately.
- Consult a veterinarian
- Treat sick birds with injectable antibiotic.
 - Tylan, Baytril, Noromycin, Resflor
- As a precaution, use medicated feed or medicate the water with antibiotics for the remaining flock for a few days.
- Monitor all birds closely

FDA's VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE

WHAT IS THE VFD?

A new regulation was put in place in June of 2015 requiring a veterinary prescription for all medicated feedstuffs used in rations fed to livestock.

WHAT WILL IT REQUIRE?

Producers will have to develop a written agreement with a consulting veterinarian describing the need, purpose, and method of feeding medicated supplements to their animals.

WHAT'S NEXT????

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE VFD?

- Neomycin
- Tylosin
- Virginiamycin
- Chlortetracycline
- Oxytetracycline

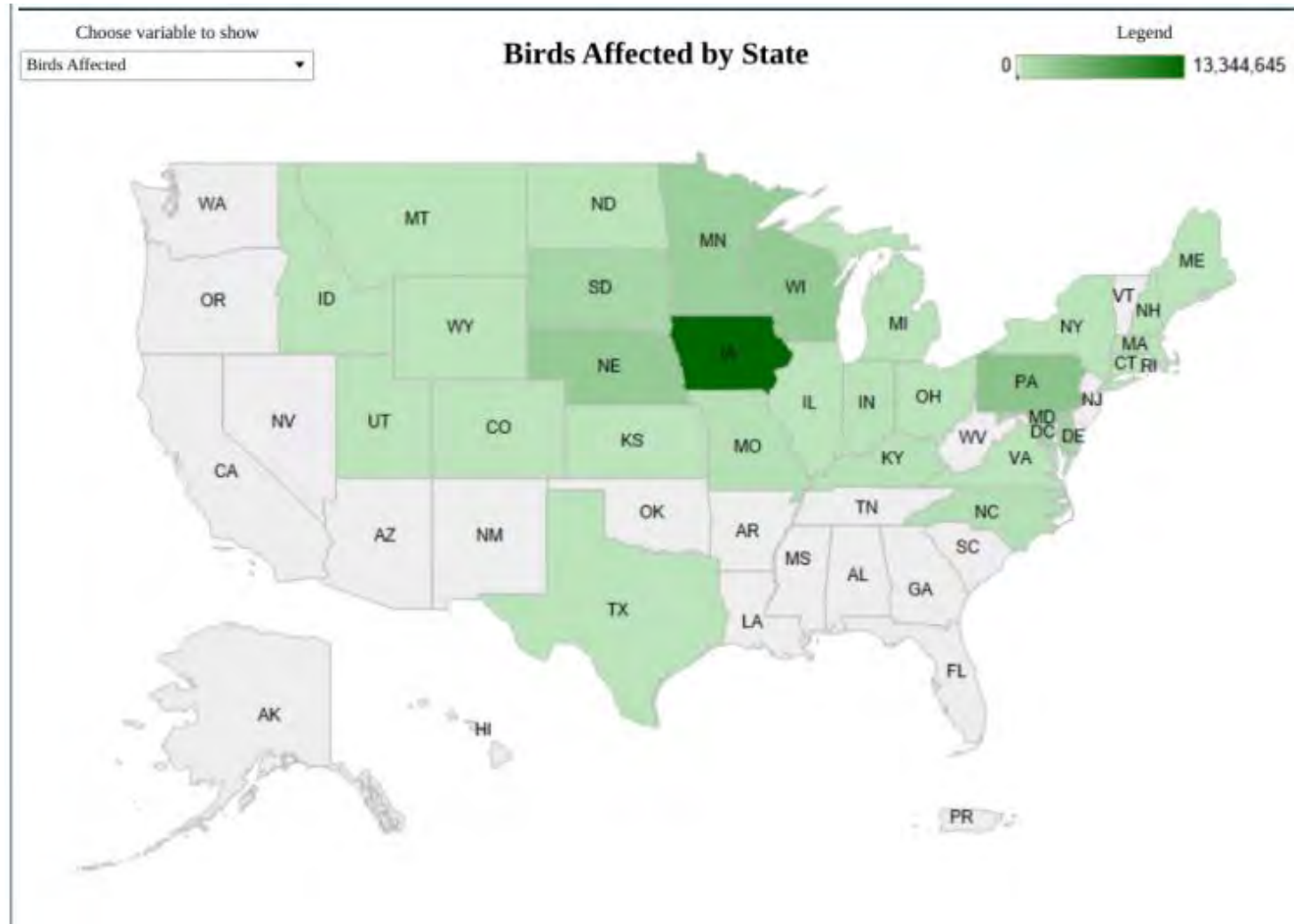


Took Effect January 1 2017

Avian Flu

- What is it?
 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
 - Highly contagious virus
 - Can be transmitted to humans
 - Lethal to most avian species
- Symptoms
 - Dramatic breathing challenges (gasping)
 - Severe diarrhea
 - Swelling around the head (hydrocephalus)
 - Rapid death

Avian Flu



Avian Flu

How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People

Human Infections with Bird Flu Viruses Rare But Possible

1 Direct Contact

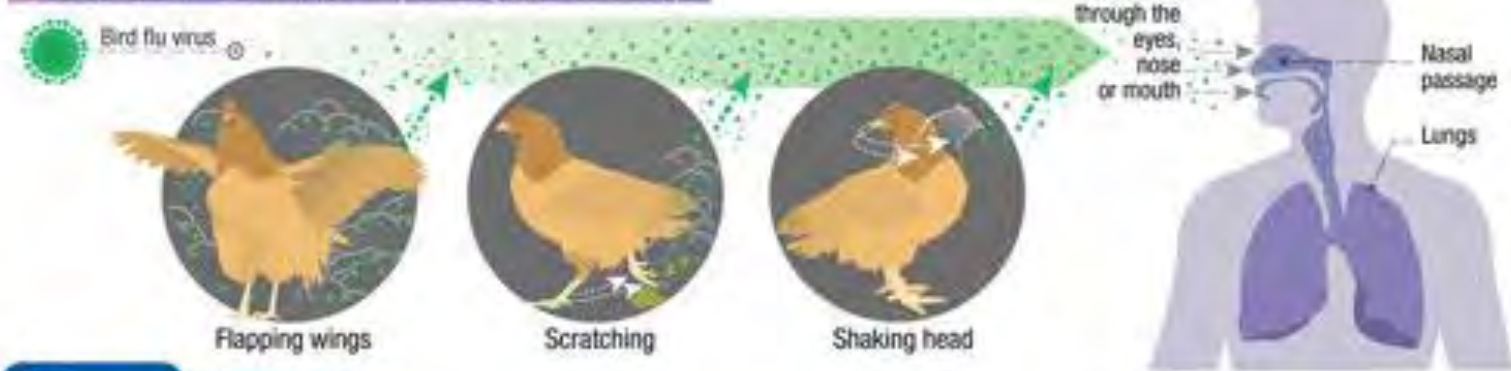
(Most Common)



2 Contaminated Surfaces



3 Bird Flu Virus in the Air (in Droplets or Dust)



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-in-humans.htm

11/27/10

Avian Flu - Prevention

- ✓ No current vaccine
- ✓ Put up all bird feeders for wild birds (including humming birds)
- ✓ Ramp up fly and mosquito control.
- ✓ DO NOT purchase outside birds until threat is over.
 - ✓ Chicks are at lower risk, but still a risk
- ✓ Monitor flock very closely
- ✓ Ramp up coop/pen cleaning schedule
- ✓ Net the roof of the pen

How to keep your flock health - Biosecurity

- Always wash your hands after touching poultry, bedding, housing, droppings, or anything else the birds have come in contact with.
- Do not handle poultry excessively (such as cuddling or kissing birds).
- For more information on preventing Salmonella infections from poultry, see the CDC guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellapoultry/index.html>.
- Do not expose your flock to wild waterfowl or poultry from other flocks.
- Buy chicks from known sources.
- Buy chicks from pullorum-free flocks.
- Keep young chicks away from older birds.
- Burn, bury, or compost dead birds.
- Do not allow contaminated equipment to be brought on your premises.

How to keep your flock health - Biosecurity

- Keep visitors away from your poultry houses or ranges.
- Keep chickens that have left the premises from getting back into the flock.
- Dispose of sick chickens.
- Should disease appear, seek authoritative advice promptly, such as from your veterinarian or county Extension agent (<https://aces.nmsu.edu/county/>).
- Use preventive and control medications with extreme caution.
- Treat droppings as potential disease spreaders.
- Try to eliminate rats, mice, lice, and other pests.
- Handle vaccines properly. Follow the manufacturer's directions.
- Keep different species of fowl segregated.
- Do not sell birds known to be diseased.

How to keep your flock health - Biosecurity



- Clean coop and all areas of confinement regularly.
- Disinfect as part of the process.
- Lye helps keep the ground dry.

How to keep your flock health - Biosecurity



- Quarantine new birds at least 20 feet away from the main flock for 14 days.
 - Monitor for sickness
 - Vaccinate
 - Eating well before introduction to the rest of the flock.



THANK YOU!
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